

CREATURES
ON THE LOOSE

MARVEL COMICS GROUP™



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CREATURES ON THE LOOSE™

FEATURING

THONGOR™

WARRIOR OF LOST LEMURIA



NEW! NEW! NEW!
--FROM THE HOUSE OF IDEAS
THAT GAVE YOU
CONAN and **KULL!**

**FIRST
TIME
IN
COMIC-BOOK
FORM!**



STERANKO

THE DEMON OF ZANGABAL!

10 2000 1990 1980 1970 1960 1950 1940 1930 1920 1910 1900 1890 1880 1870 1860 1850 1840 1830 1820 1810 1800 1790 1780 1770 1760 1750 1740 1730 1720 1710 1700 1690 1680 1670 1660 1650 1640 1630 1620 1610 1600 1590 1580 1570 1560 1550 1540 1530 1520 1510 1500 1490 1480 1470 1460 1450 1440 1430 1420 1410 1400 1390 1380 1370 1360 1350 1340 1330 1320 1310 1300 1290 1280 1270 1260 1250 1240 1230 1220 1210 1200 1190 1180 1170 1160 1150 1140 1130 1120 1110 1100 1090 1080 1070 1060 1050 1040 1030 1020 1010 1000 990 980 970 960 950 940 930 920 910 900 890 880 870 860 850 840 830 820 810 800 790 780 770 760 750 740 730 720 710 700 690 680 670 660 650 640 630 620 610 600 590 580 570 560 550 540 530 520 510 500 490 480 470 460 450 440 430 420 410 400 390 380 370 360 350 340 330 320 310 300 290 280 270 260 250 240 230 220 210 200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0

STAN LEE PRESENTS: THONGOR!

WARRIOR OF LOST LEMURIA!

THONGOR! WHAT MAD SORCERER CAN FORETELL THE FATE OF THAT SAVAGE YOUTH? NOT ANOTHER SOUL IN THE ANCIENT CITY OF ZANGABAL, NAY, IN THE WHOLE OF THE LOST CONTINENT OF LEMURIA, SHALL CLAIM SUCH A STRANGE DESTINY--!

LIKE OLD WOMEN, YOU BLOCK MY WAY--

--AND I WOULD PASS!

YOU'VE LEFT YOUR THIEVES' SANCTUARY!

SURRENDER!

KRRANG!

UNNH!

THE TIME FOR DESTINY HAS NOT YET COME, FOR THE HUNGRY YOUNG STRANGER ALONE IN THE GREAT CITY, IT IS NO DISGRACE TO STEAL TO FEED HIS TORTURED BODY...AND IF THE CITY'S GUARDS WISH TO INTERFERE--

GEORGE ALEC EFFINGER,
WRITER

VAL MAYERIK,*
ARTIST

VINCE COLLETTA,*
INKER

ARTIE SIMEK, LETTERER
GLYNIS WEIN, COLORIST

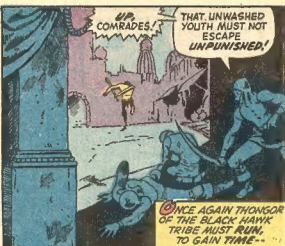
ROY THOMAS,
EDITOR

BASED ON THE STORY "THIEVES OF ZANGABAL" BY LIN CARTER, CREATOR OF THONGOR

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LEARN, COWARDS, WHAT
"SURRENDER" MEANS TO
A VALKARTHIAN!



UP,
COMRADES!

THAT UNWASHED
YOUTH MUST NOT
ESCAPE
UNPUNISHED!

ONCE AGAIN THONGOR
OF THE BLACK HAWK
TRIBE MUST RUN,
TO GAIN TIME--



--TO PLAN,
TO FIND A
WAY TO
BEAT
THESE
CITY MEN
WHO
MOCK
HIM--!



HOW SOFT THESE SOLDIERS BE!

MY ANCIENT
MOTHER COULD
HAVE OUTSPED
THEIR SWIFTEST
RUNNER.

THE CUT-PURSE KINGDOM:
WHERE THE MIGHTY THIEVES
GUILD RULES BY DAY, WHERE
EVEN EMPERORS FEAR TO TREAD
BY NIGHT...



BUT THONGOR HAS LITTLE
CHOICE...



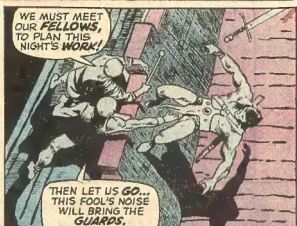
THE WALL IS HIGH...
PROTECTION FROM
THOSE WEAKLINGS
WHO WOULD BE
WARRIORS!



--BUT IT IS MERE
STONE, AND I AM
THONGOR!



UNW--
EVEN THE HEWN
BLOCKS OF
THIS CITY ARE
FOUL TO THE
TOUCH.



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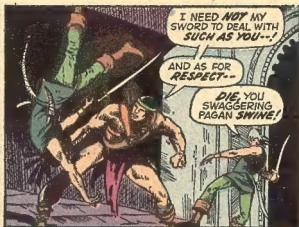
Name Age

Address

City State Zip

SAVE 3 DAYS - GIVE ZIP FOR FAST REPLY

How to IMPORT EXPORT



**IS IT UNTHINKING
HASTE THAT GUIDES
THE YOUNG GIANT'S
FEET--**



**--OR SOME
DARKER
POWER OF
DESTINY?**



**I KNOW NOT
WHERE I AM--**

**--BUT MY
TIMID FOES
HESITATE
TO FOLLOW.**



**UNWISELY THEY
GRANT ME TIME
TO REST...I MUST
THINK--**



**EH? THE VERY WALL
NOW GAPES!**

**WHAT
EVIL
IS
THIS?**



**COME, LAD, ARE YOU SO
UNSCHOOLED?**

**ENTER QUICKLY,
OR DO YOU FEAR AN
ARCHITECT'S "MAGIC"?**



**I FEAR ONLY TO TRADE A
KNOWN DANGER FOR A DARK
AND UNLIT ONE.**



**BUT THE GUARDS
WILL SOON SUMMON
THEIR SHREDS OF
COURAGE.**

**KNOW YOU, STRANGER,
THAT FOR TRICKERY
YOU WILL PAY WITH
YOUR LIFE!**



**I AM
KAMAN
THUU--**

**--A PRIEST OF THE
SEVEN GODS OF
ZANGABAL.**

**SURELY
I CAN BE
TRUSTED,
DON'T
YOU
AGREE?**

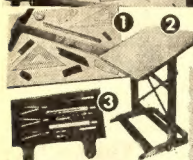


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in DRAFTING**

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SAMPLE
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Skyrocketing U.S. mass production requires millions of drawings & thousands of Mechanical Draftsmen all along the way. Drawings must be made of every PART of every product used in the U.S. (as well as of the machines that make these parts) before production can be started.



HERE'S WHAT STUDENTS SAY



Gets Three Raises!

"Since completing my course I have been transferred from the Foundry to the Engineering Department and had three raises." R. C., Ohio

Job Awaits Serviceman!

"Your Drafting Course has given me a good start. I already have a job waiting for me when I leave the service." L. L., FPO, New York

Big Promotion!
"18 months ago I was a laborer. Now I am foreman of 22 people in the Drafting Room. Thanks for making this possible." S. B., Mass.

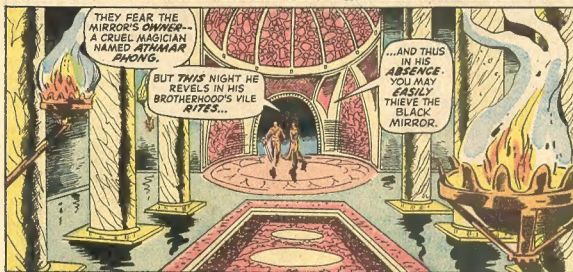
"I've had 2 boosts in salary and a \$300 bonus in 11 months. Wish I could shake hands with your staff in person." A. C., Calif.

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WOULD YOU RATHER
STARVE LIKE A
BEGGAR? WITHOUT
MY GOLD, YOU
CANNOT ENTER THE
THIEVES' GUILD--

--AND YOU WILL
NOT LIVE LONG,
FIGHTING THEM
AND THE CITY
GUARDS!

IF I MUST
SOOTHE
YOUR
FEARS,
I WILL
ENTRUST
THIS
CRYSTAL
TALISMAN
TO YOU...

WE OF THE TEMPLE
CALL IT THE SHIELD
OF CATHLODA.

IT WAS MADE A
THOUSAND YEARS
AGO IN ZAAR,
THE BLACK CITY.

WHAT DOES
THIS TRINKET
DO?

IT IS A PROTECTIVE DEVICE WHICH
ABSORBS AND DIVERTS THE ATTACKS
OF MOST MAGICAL FORCES.

FEAR NOT--YOU
WILL WALK SAFELY
AND UNHARMED.

VERY WELL,
PRIEST.
I WILL
CHANCE IT
FOR YOUR
GOLD--

--THOUGH
SOMETHING
TELLS ME
I MAY YET
REGRET
THE
BARGAIN!

THIS
HIDDEN
ROUTE WILL
CARRY YOU
BENEATH
THE HOUSE
OF ATHMAR
PHONG.

IGNORE THE
RED SYMBOLS!
THEY LEAD
ONLY TO THE
WATERFRONT!

--BE CAREFUL THAT
YOU FOLLOW THE
YELLOW SYMBOLS.
DO NOT STRAY
FROM THE PATH!

No approvals included. Big illustrated lists.
Picture Stamps, Box 46183-M, Hollywood, Cal. 90044

FAREWELL, PRIEST! I BID
YOU COUNT OUT MY AAY,
FOR I SHALL RETURN
SOON INDEED!

DO NOT
TARRY
BARBARIAN!

SOON, THINKS THE
TREACHEROUS KAMAN
THUU, THE MYSTIC
MIRROR SHALL BE HIS
AND WITH IT--POWER!

POWER ENOUGH TO
SEIZE THE THRONE
OF ZANGABAL--AND
RID THE WORLD OF
ONE VALKARTHAN
SAVAGE, TOO--!

THAT OILY
PRIEST IS A
FOOL IF HE
BELIEVES
I TRUST
HIM--

LIKE AS NOT,
I'LL HAVE TO
STEAL MY GOLD
AS I STEAL THIS
LEGENDARY
MIRROR.

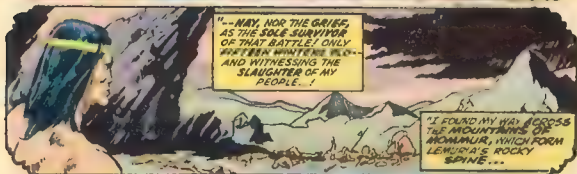
GORM
CURSE
THE DAY
I WAS
CAST UP
ON THIS
SHORE...

"NINE YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE THAT DAY WHEN MY BLACK HAWK TRIBE FOUGHT THEIR FINAL BATTLE WITH THEIR SWORN FOES, THE SNOW BEAR TRIBE, IN OUR HOMELAND VALKARTH..."



KNOW, DOG, THAT T IS THE GREAT BROAD-SWORD OF MY SIRE THUMITAR THAT SENDS YOU TO MEET FATHER GORM!

"NEVER AGAIN WILL I KNOW THE ANGER"



"...NAY, NOR THE GRIEF, AS THE SOLE SURVIVOR OF THAT BATTLE! ONLY FIFTEEN WINTERED HERE AND WITNESSING THE SLAUGHTER OF MY PEOPLE...!"

"I FOUND MY WAY ACROSS THE MOUNTAINS OF MOMMUR, WHICH FORM LEMURIA'S ROCKY SPINE..."

"...AND BECAME AN ASSASSIN...A WANDERER...A THIEF...IN THE LUSH CITIES OF THE SOUTH...!"



"...I THOUGHT MY STRANGE LUCK HAD FORSAKEN ME!"



The Adventures of CORGI Boy



...going about 210 mph
...4 Engine Dragster
...in pursuit of my old arch enemy Dr
...Fang in his Ford GT 70. Fang, who had
...just escaped from the Glacier Gaves
...prison where I had put him only
...three weeks ago, had committed
...another nefarious crime.



But by the time I regained
...my composure and speed, Dr.
...Fang had had time to reach his
...hideout and change cars. This time
...he would be even harder to catch in his
...Porsche 917. However, from a previous
...encounter with Fang along this very road,
...I recalled a risky but negotiable shortcut and
...was able to intercept Fang and immobilize
...him and his car with one blast from my dash-
...controlled freeze ray.



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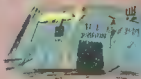
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...Ford GT 70
...skidded out of control
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...practically destructible



Moon Buggy

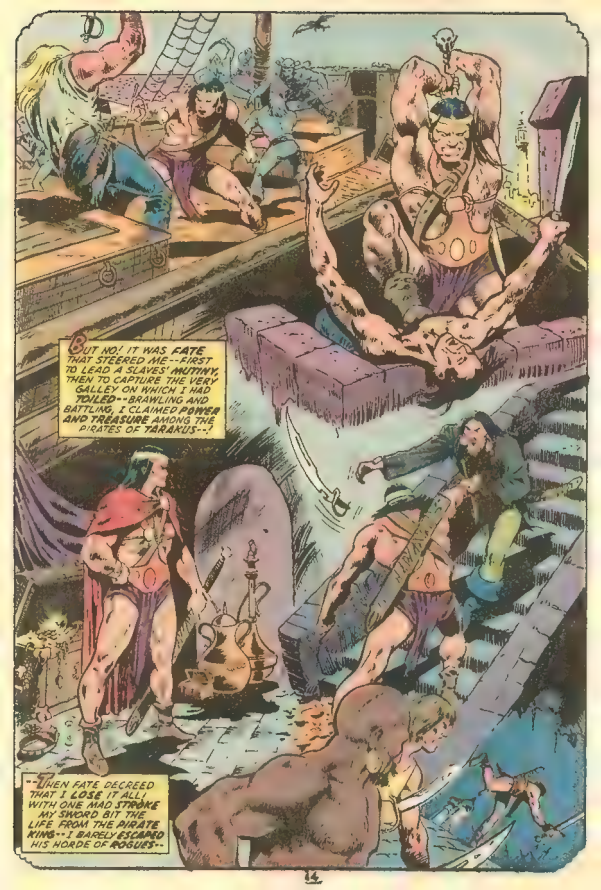
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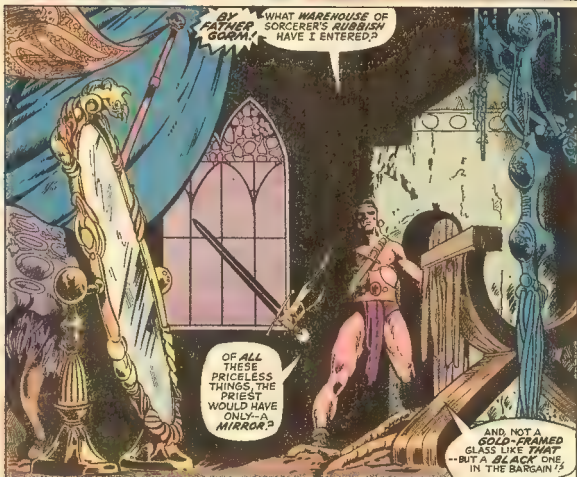
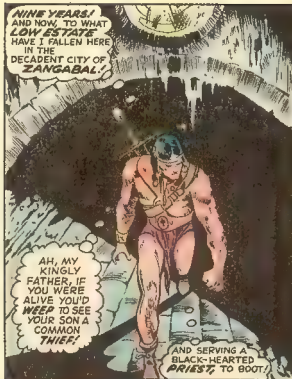
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Buy 59¢. You get what you want. You get what you
other cars because CORGI's authentic details and right-to-fast
"Whizzwheels" are unbeatable.



BUT NO! IT WAS FATE
THAT STEERED ME--FIRST
TO LEAD A SLAVES' MUTINY,
THEN TO CAPTURE THE VERY
GALLEY ON WHICH I HAD
TOILED--BRAWLING AND
BATTLING, I CLAIMED POWER
AND TREASURE AMONG THE
PIRATES OF TARAKUS--!

--WHEN FATE DECREED
THAT I LOSE IT ALL
WITH ONE MAD STROKE
MY SWORD BIT THE
LIFE FROM THE PIRATE
KING--I BARELY ESCAPED
HIS HORDE OF ROGUES--



Super

BODYBUILDING COURSE -

INTRODUCING

THE BODYBUILDING SYSTEM THAT GUARANTEES -
**YOU'LL PUT ON INCHES OF POWERFUL
MUSCLES ON YOUR BODY!**

At last, NEW bodybuilding secrets are now available for your use. Finally, after years of experimenting we have come up with the fastest muscle building system in the world. Our course really works - thousands have taken our course and have obtained fantastic results. Right in the privacy of your own bedroom, you can completely transform your body.

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"In just 3 weeks I have gained 1 1/2" on my arms and 4" on my chest. I have also lost 4" off my waist. Your course is just great!" D. Roberts

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"I have gained 20 pounds in just 30 days and I have gained over 6 inches on my chest. I find that my power has doubled in sports. I am a winner in everything I do." B. Daniels

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- ★ **FEEL 100% BETTER** - You can't help but feel great once you own a muscular body.

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Dearborn, Mich. 48121

Shoot the "works" to me free! Rush me all that free muscle-building information, so that I can add inches of powerful muscles - all in the privacy of my home. I am sending 25¢ to help cover postage and handling costs. I am under no obligation. (Please print)

FREE!



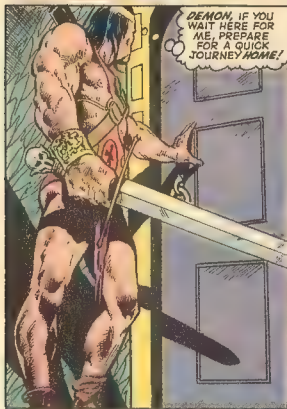
Name _____ Age _____

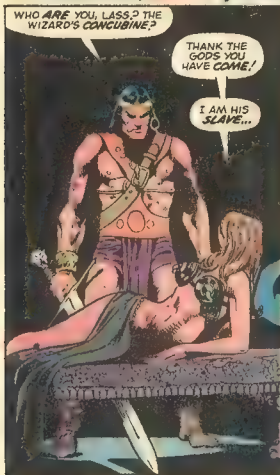
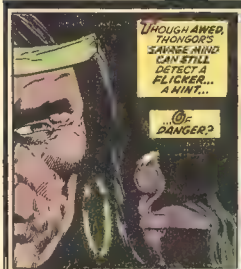
Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

MAIL TODAY







HAS HE THEN *MIS-USED* YOU, GIRL? ARE *WIZARDS* NO DIFFERENT FROM *OTHER* MEN?

I HAVE BEEN SUBJECT OF EVERY VILE WHIM THAT ENTERED HIS PUTRID HEART!

I CAME FOR OTHER BOOTY--

IF THERE BE TIME, I'LL TAKE YOU, TOO.

FREE ME, WARRIOR, AND I'LL GLADLY BE YOUR SLAVE!

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--FOR EVEN AS HER KISS SEARS HIS LIPS--

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THAT
TALISMAN--
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MY **WRATH!**

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MORTAL!**
YOUR **THREATS**
ARE AS
SMOKE--



**--TO
SUCH
AS
I!**

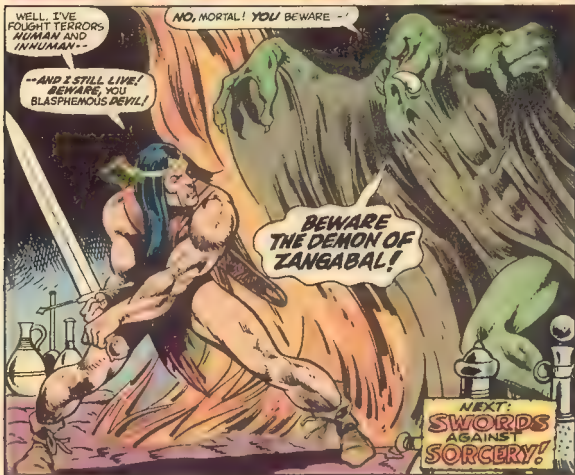
WHAT?
YOU ARE
CHANGING--
INTO SOME-
THING **NOT**
HUMAN--!

I KNEW
OF YOUR
PRESENCE,
AND CHOSE
A **SHAPE**
TO LULL
YOUR
SUSPICIONS!



**NEITHER YOUR
VAUNTED
STRENGTH NOR
MERE COLD STEEL
WILL AID AGAINST
A THING FROM
DEEPEST HELL!**

**THEN--THERE
WAS A DEMON--AS
I FEARED!**



**WELL, I'VE
FOUGHT TERRORS
HUMAN AND
INNUMAN--**

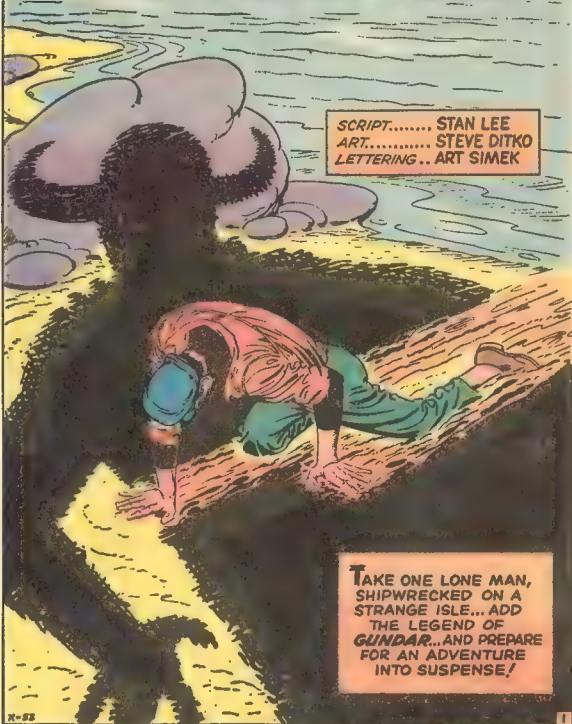
**--AND I STILL LIVE!
BEWARE, YOU
BLASPHEMOUS DEVIL!**

NO, MORTAL! YOU BEWARE --!

**BEWARE
THE DEMON OF
ZANGABAL!**

**NEXT:
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AGAINST
SORCERY!**

GUNDAR!



SCRIPT..... STAN LEE
ART..... STEVE DITKO
LETTERING.. ART SIMEK

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STRANGE ISLE... ADD
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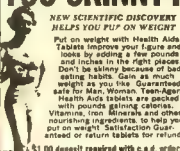
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AT FIRST, IT SEEMS TO BE
LITTLE MORE THAN A SPECK
IN THE VAST, SWIRLING
SEA...



THEN, AS IT DRAWS CLOSER
TO THE LITTLE ISLE, IT
BEGINS TO TAKE SHAPE...



...THE SHAPE OF A BATTERED
LIFEBOAT, WITH ONE LONE,
WEARY OCCUPANT!



UP AHEAD--AN
ISLAND! I'M
SAVED-- SAVED!

GOT TO FIND FOOD--
WATER--SHELTER...WEAK
--I'M SO WEAK...



AND THEN, SUDDENLY--

FEAR NOT! WE
SHALL AID
YOU!

P-PEOPLE!
BUT WHO--??

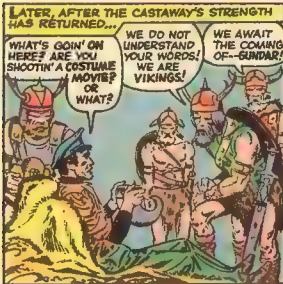


LATER, AFTER THE CASTAWAY'S STRENGTH
HAS RETURNED...

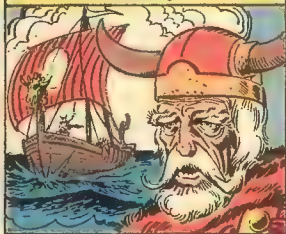
WHAT'S GOIN' ON
HERE? ARE YOU
SHOOTIN' A COSTUME
MOVIE?
OR WHAT?

WE DO NOT
UNDERSTAND
YOUR WORDS!
WE ARE
VIKINGS!

WE AWAIT
THE COMING
OF--GUNDAR!



"I SHALL EXPLAIN...LONG AGES AGO, IN
THE DIM, VANISHED PAST, MY VIKINGS AND
I SAILED OUT TO SEA WITH THE FEARSOME
GUNDAR!"



"GUNDAR WAS THE CRUELEST, MOST HATED CAPTAIN OF ALL! IT WAS WORTH A MAN'S LIFE TO MERELY INCUR HIS DISPLEASURE!"

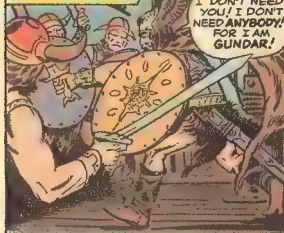
YOU DARE QUESTION MY COMMAND??! TO THE GALLEY WITH THEM!

BUT, GUNDAR-- WE MEANT NO DISRESPECT! WE MERELY ASKED A QUESTION!



"LIKE A MADMAN, THE ENRAGED GUNDAR SUDDENLY ATTACKED HIS STARTLED CREW! WE WERE FORCED TO FIGHT BACK-- TO DEFEND OURSELVES!"

I DON'T NEED YOU! I DON'T NEED ANYBODY! FOR I AM GUNDAR!

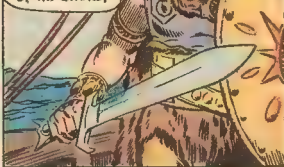


"FINALLY, EVEN HIS SHATTERED SWORD-HILT WAS GONE! HE COULD FIGHT NO MORE! BUT STILL HE WAS DEFIANT!"

I PUT MY CURSE UPON YOU ALL!



ENOUGH TALK! I AM MASTER OF THIS VESSEL, AND YOU ARE LIKE THE PLANKS BENEATH MY FEET! ANOTHER WORD, AND YOU WILL FEEL THE MIGHT OF MY SWORD!



"HE FOUGHT LIKE ALL THE FURIES! EVEN WITH HIS SWORD BROKEN, WITH HIS STRENGTH WANING, HE FOUGHT ON AND ON! HIS HATRED WAS AN AWESOME THING TO BEHOLD!"



NO MATTER WHAT I HAVE DONE TO YOU, I AM CAPTAIN OF THIS VESSEL! AND YOU HAVE DARED TO RAISE YOUR SWORDS TO ME! FOR THAT, I CONDEMN YOU!



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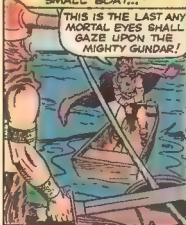
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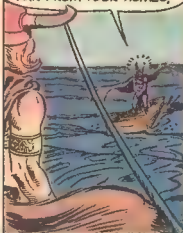
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"IT SEEMED TO US THAT HIS REASON HAD LEFT HIM! AS WE WATCHED, WORDLESSLY, HE LOWERED HIMSELF IN A SMALL BOAT..."

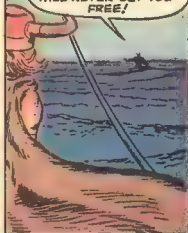


"THIS IS THE LAST ANY MORTAL EYES SHALL GAZE UPON THE MIGHTY GUNDAR!"

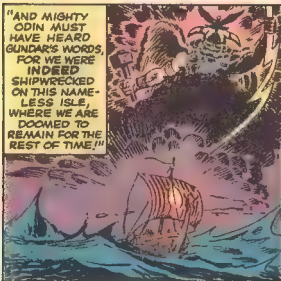
"AS FOR YOU, YOU BE CAST AWAY ON AN UNKNOWN ISLE, TO SPEND ETERNITY ALONE... FAR FROM YOUR HOMES!"



"ONLY I CAN LIFT THIS CURSE! BUT I SHALL NEVER DO IT! GUNDAR WILL NEVER SET YOU FREE!"



"AND MIGHTY ODIN MUST HAVE HEARD GUNDAR'S WORDS, FOR WE WERE INDEED SHIPWRECKED ON THIS NAMELESS ISLE, WHERE WE ARE DOOMED TO REMAIN FOR THE REST OF TIME!"



"ALAS, WE FELT WE HAD DONE NOTHING WRONG! AND YET--"

"ACCORDING TO THE VIKING CODE, THE CAPTAIN OF A VESSEL IS SUPREME! NONE MAY DEFY HIM FOR ANY CAUSE!"

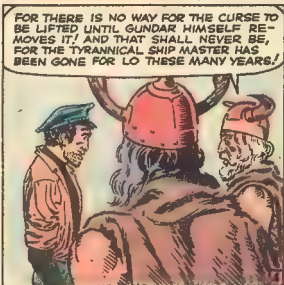


"YOU MEAN YOU HAVE ALL BEEN ON THIS ISLE FOR CENTURIES-- EVER SINCE YOU SAILED WITH GUNDAR??!"

"AYE! AND HERE WE WILL REMAIN, FOREVER!"



"FOR THERE IS NO WAY FOR THE CURSE TO BE LIFTED UNTIL GUNDAR HIMSELF REMOVES IT! AND THAT SHALL NEVER BE, FOR THE TYRANNICAL SHIP MASTER HAS BEEN GONE FOR LO THESE MANY YEARS!"





BUT, IF HE SHOULD RETURN...?

AH, THAT WOULD BE A SIGN THAT MERCIFUL ODIN WAS AT LAST GRANTED US FORGIVENESS!



AT THAT MOMENT, UNEXPECTEDLY...

LOOK AT LARS! WHAT IS HAPPENING TO HIM??!



IT IS HAPPENING TO ALL OF US!

WE ARE FADING AWAY!

WE ARE RETURNING TO THE PAST-- TO OUR OWN WORLD!

THE CURSE HAS BEEN LIFTED! WE ARE GOING HOME!



THEY'RE GONE! THEY'VE RETURNED TO THE PAST!



SO GUNDAR DID LIFT THE CURSE AT LAST! EVEN IF FATE HERSELF HAD TO HELP--



--BY LETTING ONE OF HIS DESCENDANTS WILL THE VIKINGS TO RETURN!



NOW I KNOW THAT NOTHING IN THIS WORLD HAPPENS WITHOUT A REASON-- NOT EVEN-- BEING SHIP-WRECKED ON A LONELY ISLE!

MEN! WOMEN!... help those who can't help themselves!

Chances are, you'll spend the rest of your life working — so, shouldn't your work lead to a career you enjoy? If you love animals, there's one career that promises this kind of satisfaction and, it's easily within your reach!

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FOUR OR FIVE PHENOMENAL FLASHES, FITFULLY FASHIONED TO FIGHT LETHARGY! (Or: Those Wedding Bells Are Waking Up That Old Bullpen Gang Of Mine!)

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

It worked, gang! You proved that you really do read the nutty news, notes, and nonsense which we try to cram into these pulsating pages each month. For the past few issues we've been sockin' it to you with our memorable mentions of the latest Marvel mystery known as — F.O.O.M. We hoped some of you would notice, and we figured we might even get a letter or two asking what F.O.O.M. was all about. But never in our wildest, wackiest flights of fancy could we have anticipated the fantastic flood of mail with which you've bombarded us demanding an explanation! So okay! The time hath come to pierce the veil of secrecy and illuminate the stygian darkness of most ignoble ignorance! And yet, F.O.O.M. is too much fun — too zingy a secret — to blow the whole bit in this one column. Instead, let's uncover just a part of the awesome answer and keep the suspense swingin' a while longer. F.O.O.M. is a name — composed of the first letters of four special words. Two of those words are "of" and "Marvel". The other two? See if you can guess what they are by next ish. If you can, consider yourself noprized, and don't breathe a word of it or we'll drum you out of the corps! If you can't, don't despair — you won't be deprived of the agonizin' answer much longer. So, til next time, keep the faith, face front, and don't do anything F.O.O.M. wouldn't do!

Excelsior!

ITEM! The big news around mighty Marvel this month is — a wedding! Nope, Spidey and Gwen haven't taken the big step yet — and bashful Ben Grimm is still footloose and fancy free — but the Hulk's very own HERB TRIMPE and lovely LINDA FITE (scripter of THE CAT, what else?) finally decided it was time they tied the knot! As these deathless words are penned, they've just said their "I do's" and split for some top-secret location (the Hulk-Buster Base, perchance?) for a full-scale honeymoon; then it's back to Fun City and more of our delirium-inducing deadlines! Last we heard, Herb and Linda hadn't yet formulated any plans for ol' Greenskin to start going steady with the ever-clawing Cat — but from now on, don't take anything for granted, hear?

ITEM! Face it, friend — the whole wide world is going SPIDER-MAN happy! The other day, a wild new bi-weekly called The Monster Times devoted an entire issue to our web-spinning wonder, with a sizable (and well-deserved) spread on artist JOHNNY ROMITA! And now, who but the prestigious New Yorker maga-

zine has just featured a full-length piece on Spidey's sensational new scripter, GERRY (GERARD F.) CONWAY! Hmmm... The Monster Times... The New Yorker... Looks like there are no worlds left for the ol' wall-crawler to conquer, 'cept maybe the Ladies' Home Journal! But, who knows — maybe one of these fine days —!

ITEM! With a pair of brawny barbarians named CONAN and KULL currently the toast of comicdom, we figured it was time we bowed to countless requests to add yet a third sword-wielding hero to our legend laden lineup! So, step aside for THONGOR, WARRIOR OF LOST LEMURIA — a stunning new series which debuts in the current issue of CREATURES ON THE LOOSE! Thongor is the cataclysmic creation of fantasy writer (and sometime Conan author) LIN CARTER, and is the star of some half dozen or more best-selling paperback books! Story and art are by GEORGE ALEC EFFINGER and VAL MAYERIK — and wait! you dig how these two talented newcomers really move out! That's THONGOR — in CREATURES — now on the loose! End of plug!

ITEM! Apology time, people! A couple of months back, we announced we were planning a deluxe edition of miraculous MARVEL ORIGINS for release by Christmas '72! Well, our recent expansion to well over three dozen titles a month (or had you been counting?) has left us just too blamed breathless to get it all together in time for the Holidays — so we'll have to beg off for a little while, okay? Honest to Irving Forbush, though — it's only a slight delay, not a permanent setback — and we'll clue you in on the exact release date the minute we know it ourselves! In other words — watch this space! (Not that it's doing much of anything, but at least that'll keep you out of mischief till our awesome ORIGINS book goes on sale!)

MARVELOUS MARVEL MINI-ITEMS! A special vote of thanks from ROY and JEANIE THOMAS, and from Jaunty JIM STERANKO, to the warm-hearted souls who made them Guests of Honor at the New England Comics Convention held recently in Boston, Mass.! Believe 'em when they tell you — it was a ball! A Talk about shockers! For months now, scripter STEVE ENGLEHART and our pal SAL BUSCEMA have been laying the groundwork for some far-out and far-reaching new developments in the life of our own shield-slingin' CAPTAIN AMERICA! And this is the month when it all comes home to roost! A word to the wise...! Finally, now that Stainless Steve has gone over to full-time writing chores, let's welcome aboard Dauntless DON MCGREGOR, whom longtime Marvelites will recall from about a zillion letters-pages, and who's now helping Rascally ROY and STEVE (Baby) GERBER handle all our prodigious proof-reading chores! For the first time since

he took over as editor some time back, summer vacations are over and Roy's got a full contingent (two — count 'em — two!) of editorial assistants to help him out — so now maybe he and Smilin' STAN can finally find time to confer on all the cataclysmic changes and surprises they plan to unleash on you in the near and dear future! And when they do — watch out, wondrous one!



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CREATURES ON THE LOOSE #22: Like we said: Thongor, Warrior of Lost Lemuria! More we gotta tell you?

Not to mention this Lineup of Littin' Landmarks:

THOR #209 (Day of the Super-Druid!) — HULK #161 — CAPTAIN AMERICA & THE FALCON #159 — AVENGERS #109 — SUB-MARINER #59 (Namor takes on New York — and Thor, for good measure!) — DAREDEVIL #97 — IRON MAN #56 — CONAN THE BARBARIAN #24 ("The Song of Red Sonja" — #1 on any hit parade!) — HERO FOR HIRE #7 (A Yuletide action epic, no less!) — CLAWS OF THE CAT #3 — CHAMBER OF CHILLS #3 ("The Thing on the Roof!" Robert E. Howard strikes again!) — TOMB OF DRACULA #7 — CRYPT OF SHADOWS #2 — WAR IS HELL #2 — AMAZING ADVENTURES #17 (Special! The origin of the blockbustin' Beast!) — KULL THE CONQUEROR #7 — MARVEL FEATURE #8 (The agonizin' Ant-Man fights on!) — WEREWOLF BY NIGHT #4 — MARVEL PREMIERE #7 (Dr. Strange — hot on the trail of world-devouring Shuma-Gorath!) — NIGHT NURSE #3 — SGT. FURY #108 — plus other gargantuan goodies too numerous to mention (so we won't)! Get 'em all, pilgrim! Like the man said — a prize in every package!

CREATURE FEATURES

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SPECIAL SWASHBUCKLING PRONOUNCEMENT:

This issue of CREATURES ON THE LOOSE marks the debut of the dynamic new series, "Thongor of Lost Lemuria."

But then, if you've gotten as far as this letters page, you doubtless already know that.

What may be of more interest to those of you to whom Thongor is a new experience, is the history of this outstanding hero. The creation of one Lin Carter virtually a decade ago, he first saw the light of day in an Ace paperback book named *The Wizard of Lemuria*, published in the middle 1960's during the heyday of the "Edgar Rice Burroughs boom" of that period. A sequel quickly followed: *Thongor of Lemuria*. Since that time, several more Thongor books have been published as well, and Lin tells us that there are more in the oven.

At first glance, Thongor may seem as if he's destined to be another addition to Marvel's burgeoning lineup of sword-and-sorcery heroes — and he is, but with a difference. For, by the third episode or so of this exciting new series, you'll begin to see some truly unique developments which belong to Thongor alone. If you've read the revised version of Lin's first book, which was republished recently as *Thongor and the Wizard of Lemuria*, you already know what these developments are. If not — well, let's just say you've got a treat in store for you and let it go at that, okay?

This initial installment, for those of you who keep track of such things, is an adaptation of the first half of a short story called "Thieves of Zangabal," which appeared in a Lancer paperback *The Mighty Barbarians* — and which featured, coincidentally, a cover by the selfsame Jim Steranko whose awesome illograces the cover of this comic-mag. It isn't really the earliest chronological tale of Thongor's legend-laden life — but it's the one which introduces his lifelong friend Ald Thurm (who'll pop up in the next ish of CREATURES), and thus it seemed like the best one to get things going.

And, for an art team, we chose a talented newcomer named Val Mayerik, who works closely with longtime Marvel regular Dan Adkins in the Ohio hinterland. Add to this the distinctive inking of valiant Vince Colletta, whose renderings have graced the proud pages of THOR for so many years — a few additional plot elements thrown in by editor and Thongor-fan Roy Thomas — and a sensational script by s-f writer George Alec Effinger — and we think we've got a winner on our hands!

Are we right? That's something only you can say.

So say — starting now!

Meanwhile, here are a few parting shots on our late, lamented "Warrior of Mars" series:

Dear Stan, Roy, and Co.:

Gullivar Jones, Warrior of Mars, as he appeared in CREATURES ON THE LOOSE #19, is excellent. The art was especially beautiful. Scriptwise, George Alec Effinger did an excellent job.

Chak is a fine supporting character, too. He and Gullivar make a superb team.

Both Gullivar and Chak are outcasts, each in his own way. Each must find a way to live in a hostile and strange land. Heru is a great character, too, but I hope

to see more done with her. That is, if Gullivar can save her from being knifed! Also, develop that amulet more. It has unique possibilities which I hope to see utilized.

In fact, virtually everything about Gullivar is perfect except the fact that he only gets half a magazine every other month. Gullivar Jones deserves a whole mag every month. Any chance of that?

Shirley Gorman, PMM, FFF, 2154 Avenue A
Hereford, Texas 79045

A slight one, Shirl, but only a slight one. Probably because there were so many cooks in the kitchen during those early formative issues (Gully's had four different artists and a couple of different writers in only half a dozen issues), he never had a chance to develop quite the way we'd like him to. The ten-page length was a hampering factor, too. So we decided to call a halt to his adventures (at least till we get our bearings) and try a whole new, hopefully better tack with Thongor. Don't give up on Gullivar Jones yet, though! An ambitious letter-writing campaign might yet save him! So, how about it out there, Gullyphiles? Got those pencils (and tongues) sharpened?

Dear Roy and "Piglet":

In CREATURES ON THE LOOSE #20, I noticed something which could earn me what I've been lusting over for a long time — namely, a no-prize.

In the Gullivar story this issue we find that Ar-Hap, lord of the Red Barbarians, has a tiny living head growing out of his body in addition to his regular-sized one. Well, in the short story "Lukundoo" by Edward Lucas White, the plot deals with a man who has the same affliction. And, in MARVEL PREMIERE #5 (published in the same month), a foul fungus forms upon the flesh of Dr. Strange, a theme used in "The Voice of the Night" by William Hope Hodgson.

Now, the real twist is that both these tales were published in Alfred Hitchcock's *Twelve Stories They Wouldn't Let Me Do on TV*. Okay. Do I deserve a no-prize?

John Camilleri, 1535 Ferdinand
Detroit, Mich. 48209

You sure do, John — but more for spotting a cataclysmic coincidence, we're afraid, than for seeking out the exact thing which influenced our two agonizin' authors. We're not sure just where Gardner Fox dug up that fungus idea, but we do know that the tiny-head idea grew out of a conversation between Roy and George one day at our Marvel offices, when they got to discussing a key scene (and an equally similar affliction) in Walter Miller's classic s-f work, *A Canticle for Liebowitz*. Of course, where Mr. Miller got his inspiration from, we dunno — so why don't you try writing him next time?

Glad to see you're on your toes, though, friend. 'Cause that keeps us on ours!

WHO SAYS THIS ISN'T THE MARVEL AGE OF COMICS?!

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P.M.M. (Permanent Marvelite Maximus) — Anyone possessing all four of the other titles.
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